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primer complimentary to said oligonucleotide primer, said extension products being copies of said target sequence, the improvement which comprises forming said extension products in the presence of a second polynucleotide, to which said oligonucleotide primer hybridizes except for the 3'-end of said oligonucleotide primer, under conditions wherein the extension of said oligonucleotide primer along said second polynucleotide is controlled relative to the extension of said oligonucleotide primer along said target sequence.

2. (amended) In a method for amplifying a target sequence of a target polynucleotide, said method comprising combining a sample suspected of containing said target polynucleotide with reagents for amplifying said target sequence if present and subjecting said combination to conditions wherein said target sequence if present is amplified, said reagents comprising [an oligonucleotide primer] primer A and primer B and a polymerase, the improvement which comprises (a) including in said combination a control polynucleotide, to which said [oligonucleotide primer] primer A hybridizes except for 1-10 nucleotides at the 3'-end of said [oligonucleotide] primer, and a 3' to 5' exonuclease when said polymerase does not comprise a 3' to 5' exonuclease, wherein said [oligonucleotide] primer extends along said target sequence and extends along said control polynucleotide to produce copies of said control polynucleotide only after said 1 to 10 nucleotides are degraded by said polymerase having 3' to 5' exonuclease activity and (b) detecting the presence of said copies of said control polynucleotide, the presence thereof indicating that said reagents and conditions for amplifying said target sequence are functional.

B2

58. (amended) In a method for forming multiple copies of a target sequence of a target polynucleotide, said method comprising the step of forming extension products of [an] a first oligonucleotide primer at least along said target sequence or along an oligonucleotide primer extended by a second primer complementary to the target polynucleotide, wherein said first and second primers are the same or different, said extension products being copies of said target sequence, the improvement which comprises forming said extension products in the presence of a second polynucleotide, to which said first oligonucleotide primer hybridizes except for the 3'-end of said first oligonucleotide primer, under conditions wherein the extension of said first